IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 is amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1, system 100 includes service processing switch 110, access routers 104, and network 116. In one embodiment, service processing switch 110 provides switching, routing, and computing resources that can be allocated by a service provider to customers. In one embodiment, service processing switch 110 is the IPSX 9000 service processing switch from CoSine Communications, Inc. But, the invention is not limited to any particular switch, router, or service processing hardware.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2 and 4 are amended as follows:

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a multi-blade system connected via a ring network within service processing system 110, according to an embodiment of the invention. In some embodiments, each of two network rings 210 and 220 communicatively connect blades 112-1, 112-2, and 112-3 together. Although three blades are shown, in another embodiment any number can be present. Blade 112-1 contains processor 230-1 and memory 240-1 connected via system bus 250-1. Blade 112-1 also contains ring controller 145-1. Blade 112-2 contains processor 230-2 and memory 240-2 connected via system bus 250-2. Blade 112-1 also contains ring controller 145-2. Blade 112-3 contains processor 230-3 and memory 240-3 connected via system bus 250-3. Blade 112-1 also contains ring controller 145-3. Each blade optionally includes other hardware; for example although only one processor and memory are shown in the blades, each can contain multiple processors and multiple memories, as previously described above with reference to Fig. 1.